



WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES (DISTRIBUTION), AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1985 PRELIMINARY

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Geoff Winter on Canberra (062) 52 6661 or any of our State offices.

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MAIN FEATURES

In August 1985, married males employed *full-time* had mean weekly earnings of \$426 compared with \$323 for married females. Amongst the full-time employed who were not married, mean weekly earnings were lower and the difference between males and females was less—\$336 for males and \$289 for females.

Mean weekly earnings for not-married males and females employed *part-time* were the same—\$118 for males and females. Married males employed part-time had much higher mean earnings of \$264, while the corresponding group of females had earnings at the intermediate level of \$165.

The peak of the earnings distribution for full-time male employees occurred at \$447 for the 35-44 years age group, considerably higher and later than for females (\$344 for the 25-34 years age group).

Notes (i) Caution should be exercised when comparing estimates in this publication with those included in the quarterly publication Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia (6302.0). There are important differences in the purpose, scope and methodology of this household survey and the Average Weekly Earnings survey of employers. See paragraph 12 below.

(ii) Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 13 below.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The monthly Population Survey (which is described in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. This publication contains some results of a supplementary survey run in association with the August 1985 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary were asked additional questions. This subset of respondents was asked about their earnings in order to estimate the distribution of earnings.

Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) except that it was restricted to persons who were employed as wage and salary earners ('employees') in their main job excluding persons on workers' compensation and persons who worked solely for payment in kind.

Definitions

4. *Weekly earnings* referred to the amount of 'last total pay' prior to the interview (i.e. before taxation and other deductions had been made). For persons paid other than weekly, earnings were converted to a weekly equivalent. No adjustment was made for any back payment of wage increases or pre-payment of leave, etc.

5. *Median weekly earnings* is the amount which divides the distribution of individuals into two equal groups, one having earnings above and the other below that amount. Medians were calculated from grouped data, the class intervals in some cases being finer than those published in the tables. Linear interpolation was used within the class interval in which the median fell.

6. *Mean weekly earnings* is the amount obtained by dividing the total earnings of a group by the number of units in that group.

7. The *main job* was defined as the job in which most hours were usually worked. The *second job* was defined to include all remaining wage and salary earner jobs in which some hours were worked during the survey week. A person who held more than one job was classified to the industry and occupation of the main job. Service in the reserve defence forces was not regarded as a second job. Persons who by the nature of their employment worked for more than one employer, e.g. domestics, odd-job men, baby-sitters, etc., were not counted as having a second job unless they also held another job of a different kind, nor were those who worked for more than one employer solely by reason of changing jobs during the survey week. *All jobs* comprised main job and second job as defined above.

8. *Full-time employees* are those who usually work 35 hours a week or more (in all jobs) and others who, although usually part-time employees, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. It should be noted that some full-time employees may have worked or been paid for less than a full week. *Part-time employees* are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.

9. Further definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

Results of the survey

10. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. Estimates shown are preliminary and may be revised. A more detailed publication will be released as soon as possible and further information is available on request.

11. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in August 1975, have been published in *Weekly Earnings of Employees (Distribution), Australia* (6310.0).

Comparability of series

12. This survey was conducted primarily to obtain statistics on the distribution of earnings of employees classified by characteristics such as marital status, sex, age and whether the earnings came from the main job or any second job. Caution should be exercised when comparing the means of distributions of earnings in this publication with estimates of average weekly earnings included in the quarterly publication *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (6302.0) which are compiled from a survey of employers. There are important differences in the scope of and methodology used in the two surveys. The quarterly survey of average weekly earnings excludes employees in the industries of Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (ASIC Division A) and Private Households Employing Staff (ASIC Sub-division 94) both of which are included in the August household survey. Data from the quarterly survey of average weekly earnings are collected from employers who fill in a mailed questionnaire giving details of their employees' weekly earnings. For the August household survey, respondents are either interviewed personally at their dwelling or another adult member of their household responds on their behalf. There are many factors which account for the differences between data from the two collections, including lack of consultation of records by respondents to the household survey, misunderstanding of the type of earnings required (i.e. gross rather than net earnings), earnings being reported in ranges, lack of recognition of irregular sources of earnings and lack of awareness of earnings of other household members not answering for themselves.

Reliability of the estimates

13. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). A table of estimated standard errors for this survey follows these notes. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although figures for these small components can, in some cases, be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable;
- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures. In many cases the answer to the question on earnings was based on the knowledge of one person (generally the housewife). Respondents were asked to indicate the amount of earnings in terms of ranges. (The earnings ranges used are generally those shown in Table 1.) It is considered that there may be some understatement in the estimates because of imperfect recall of minor or irregular sources of earnings. Other errors may be due to genuine misunderstanding.

Related publications

14. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (Preliminary) (6301.0), and final publication (6302.0)—issued quarterly

Earnings and Hours of Employees, Distribution and Composition, Australia (Preliminary) (6305.0), and final publication (6306.0)—sample survey conducted in May (once every two years).

Income of Individuals, Australia, 1981-82 (6502.0)

Multiple Jobholding, Australia, August 1983 (6216.0)

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia (6312.0)—issued monthly

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 13 above.

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**TABLE 1. ALL EMPLOYEES: WEEKLY EARNINGS IN ALL JOBS, MARITAL STATUS
AND FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS, AUGUST 1985**

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Married	Not married	Total	Married	Not married	Total	Married	Not married	Total
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES									
Weekly earnings (\$)—	—' 000—								
Under 120	11.0	32.9	43.9	10.8	21.9	32.7	21.8	54.8	76.6
120 and under 160	12.6	70.7	83.3	10.8	65.7	76.5	23.4	136.4	159.8
160 " 200	22.5	70.8	93.4	23.1	75.0	98.1	45.7	145.8	191.4
200 " 240	68.3	93.1	161.5	77.4	95.9	173.3	145.7	189.0	334.8
240 " 280	170.8	153.8	324.6	139.7	142.0	281.7	310.5	295.7	606.2
280 " 320	291.2	160.8	452.1	138.8	123.5	262.3	430.1	284.3	714.4
320 " 360	292.6	125.4	418.0	87.4	81.7	169.1	380.0	207.1	587.1
360 " 400	242.7	101.8	344.4	53.0	53.6	106.6	295.7	155.4	451.1
400 " 440	187.4	72.3	259.7	34.2	35.4	69.6	221.6	107.7	329.3
440 " 480	149.9	45.2	195.2	29.4	24.2	53.5	179.3	69.4	248.7
480 " 520	154.7	44.1	198.8	27.5	17.8	45.2	182.2	61.9	244.1
520 " 560	121.5	30.2	151.8	15.6	11.4	27.0	137.1	41.6	178.7
560 " 600	114.9	28.0	142.9	8.4	9.2	17.6	123.3	37.2	160.5
600 and over	195.6	45.6	241.3	11.3	8.8	20.2	207.0	54.5	261.4
Total	2,035.9	1,074.8	3,110.7	667.5	766.0	1,433.5	2,703.4	1,840.8	4,544.2
Median earnings	385	309	358	301	—dollars— 275		288	359	294
Mean earnings	426	336	395	323	289		305	401	317
Standard error of mean	1.90	2.10	1.40	2.60	2.10		1.60	1.50	1.10
PART-TIME EMPLOYEES(a)									
Weekly earnings (\$)—	—' 000—								
Under 40	4.1	45.6	49.7	32.9	64.9	97.8	37.0	110.5	147.5
40 and under 80	6.2	23.4	29.6	66.2	49.5	115.7	72.5	72.9	145.3
80 " 120	5.0	16.2	21.2	95.1	27.8	122.9	100.1	44.0	144.1
120 " 160	5.7	11.1	16.9	105.1	27.0	132.0	110.8	38.1	148.9
160 " 200	5.2	8.8	14.1	88.4	18.7	107.1	93.7	27.5	121.2
200 " 240	5.4	4.4	9.8	65.1	17.6	82.8	70.6	22.0	92.6
240 " 280	5.7	6.0	11.7	36.9	11.2	48.1	42.6	17.2	59.8
280 " 320	4.2	4.6	8.8	24.6	5.7	30.2	28.8	10.3	39.1
320 " 360	*	*	4.1	11.2	*	13.4	13.7	3.8	17.5
360 and over	15.4	6.9	22.3	21.2	9.3	30.5	36.6	16.2	52.9
Total	59.6	128.5	188.1	546.7	234.0	780.7	606.3	362.5	968.8
Median earnings	226	72	108	150	—dollars— 84		136	154	79
Mean earnings	264	118	164	165	118		151	174	118
Standard error of mean	7.00	2.10	2.50	1.40	1.60		1.10	1.30	1.00

(a) As part-time employees are defined as those who usually work less than 35 hours and who did so in the survey week, these figures may include some school teachers, academic staff in universities, air crew, etc.

TABLE 2. FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES : WEEKLY EARNINGS IN ALL JOBS AND AGE, AUGUST 1985

	Age group (years)							Total 20 and over	Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60 and over		
MALES									
Weekly earnings (\$)—					— ' 000 —				
Under 120	22.2	5.2	4.9	3.9	4.1	*	*	21.8	43.9
120 and under 160	59.2	8.4	4.7	4.6	4.6	*	*	24.1	83.3
160 " 200	51.1	15.0	10.8	6.9	5.2	*	*	42.3	93.4
200 " 240	34.4	41.0	31.8	22.4	18.2	8.3	5.4	127.1	161.5
240 " 280	26.6	87.5	82.8	52.3	43.8	19.5	12.0	297.9	324.6
280 " 320	17.8	91.2	130.6	88.7	67.3	35.7	20.9	434.3	452.1
320 " 360	5.5	64.2	138.5	96.8	65.4	30.7	16.9	412.5	418.0
360 " 400	*	48.4	112.9	86.8	56.2	25.9	11.6	341.8	344.4
400 " 440	*	27.7	94.5	67.7	43.9	17.7	6.5	257.9	259.7
440 " 480	*	15.6	74.2	59.0	29.6	12.3	3.5	194.2	195.2
480 " 520	*	13.9	63.2	66.7	39.0	10.8	4.5	198.2	198.8
520 " 560	*	8.0	56.3	52.7	23.9	7.6	*	151.3	151.8
560 " 600	*	6.6	38.6	55.0	29.0	9.3	3.9	142.4	142.9
600 and over	*	8.7	63.2	88.2	56.2	17.8	6.0	240.3	241.3
Total	224.6	441.4	907.1	751.7	486.4	199.9	99.6	2,886.1	3,110.7
					—dollars—				
Median earnings	184	308	377	408	385	362	335	370	358
Mean earnings	200	327	408	447	440	411	372	410	395
Standard error of mean	2.80	3.20	2.80	3.30	4.10	5.90	7.60	1.60	1.40
FEMALES									
Weekly earnings (\$)—					— ' 000 —				
Under 120	15.0	3.6	4.3	5.1	*	*	*	17.7	32.7
120 and under 160	53.5	9.5	5.8	3.8	*	*	*	23.1	76.5
160 " 200	53.3	17.5	7.9	9.4	5.6	*	*	44.8	98.1
200 " 240	36.8	52.6	28.0	30.4	20.4	4.3	*	136.5	173.3
240 " 280	16.4	94.5	67.8	53.7	34.2	10.3	4.8	265.3	281.7
280 " 320	5.7	78.1	79.1	53.8	33.6	9.0	*	256.6	262.3
320 " 360	*	45.9	60.5	30.6	22.2	5.4	*	166.8	169.1
360 " 400	*	25.7	38.4	25.0	11.3	*	*	105.4	106.6
400 " 440	*	9.9	32.3	15.4	8.3	*	*	68.6	69.6
440 and over	*	13.6	65.2	51.4	24.2	7.5	*	162.8	163.6
Total	186.1	350.8	389.3	278.8	165.7	45.6	17.1	1,247.4	1,433.5
					—dollars—				
Median earnings	178	279	321	307	300	298	281	301	288
Mean earnings	187	289	344	338	321	329	289	323	305
Standard error of mean	2.80	3.20	3.60	4.10	4.80	10.10	14.30	1.90	1.60

TABLE 3. ALL EMPLOYEES : WEEKLY EARNINGS IN ALL JOBS AND FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS, AUGUST 1985

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
MALE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES									
<i>Weekly earnings (\$)—</i>	<i>—'000—</i>								
Under 120	13.8	10.9	7.9	3.9	5.0	1.3	*	*	43.9
120 and under 160	24.0	23.9	15.1	9.2	7.4	2.4	*	*	83.3
160 " 200	29.2	23.4	14.5	10.3	9.3	4.2	*	1.6	93.4
200 " 240	54.8	46.4	23.5	13.8	13.7	5.7	*	2.3	161.5
240 " 280	101.3	92.6	56.2	29.2	30.3	9.1	2.9	2.9	324.6
280 " 320	157.7	117.4	74.3	39.4	41.7	14.5	3.3	3.8	452.1
320 " 360	148.7	117.2	62.7	32.4	34.4	14.2	3.5	4.9	418.0
360 " 400	120.7	95.5	52.0	31.1	27.3	9.7	3.1	5.0	344.4
400 " 440	93.8	68.6	41.5	20.8	21.2	6.5	3.4	3.9	259.7
440 " 480	67.3	56.8	27.7	15.2	18.7	4.4	2.0	3.0	195.2
480 " 520	68.2	58.2	27.8	14.8	17.0	5.2	3.3	4.2	198.8
520 " 560	54.9	42.0	20.1	11.1	15.1	3.0	2.4	3.2	151.8
560 " 600	55.7	39.3	19.6	8.9	11.3	3.4	*	3.2	142.9
600 and over	81.1	57.9	33.2	19.0	27.0	3.1	5.2	14.8	241.3
Total	1,071.3	850.1	476.2	259.1	279.3	86.9	33.8	54.0	3,110.7
<i>Median earnings</i>	362	358	350	349	358	337	410	458	358
<i>Mean earnings</i>	399	392	389	378	403	358	471	482	395
<i>Standard error of mean</i>	2.90	3.20	3.50	4.00	4.00	5.00	13.70	11.00	1.40
FEMALE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES									
<i>Weekly earnings (\$)—</i>	<i>—'000—</i>								
Under 120	9.3	9.7	5.6	3.0	3.5	*	*	*	32.7
120 and under 160	26.5	17.4	15.6	5.6	7.6	2.7	*	*	76.5
160 " 200	30.9	27.3	19.8	8.9	7.9	2.3	*	*	98.1
200 " 240	54.5	58.5	21.8	14.7	14.9	4.6	*	2.8	173.3
240 " 280	108.1	73.4	41.8	22.2	22.6	6.8	1.8	5.0	281.7
280 " 320	96.7	69.0	38.8	19.6	21.9	5.7	4.1	6.5	262.3
320 " 360	62.0	46.7	21.9	13.9	13.8	3.6	2.3	5.0	169.1
360 " 400	40.5	29.7	12.9	7.0	9.1	2.6	2.2	2.6	106.6
400 " 440	22.2	24.3	9.0	3.7	5.4	1.3	*	2.2	69.6
440 " 480	18.0	14.7	7.7	4.5	4.9	1.7	*	1.4	53.5
480 " 520	16.7	13.3	5.1	5.0	2.0	} 1.4	*	1.6	45.2
520 " 560	10.7	6.4	*	2.3	2.4		*	1.6	27.0
560 " 600	7.8	5.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	17.6
600 and over	7.3	*	*	2.2	2.9	*	*	1.9	20.2
Total	510.9	399.0	205.1	113.4	120.7	34.2	16.6	33.7	1,433.5
<i>Median earnings</i>	291	288	278	285	287	279	325	322	288
<i>Mean earnings</i>	309	303	287	303	312	295	352	355	305
<i>Standard error of mean</i>	3.20	3.60	4.00	4.80	4.80	6.60	14.40	10.30	1.60

TABLE 3. ALL EMPLOYEES : WEEKLY EARNINGS IN ALL JOBS AND FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS, AUGUST 1985—continued

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
MALE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES(a)									
<i>Weekly earnings (\$)—</i>	<i>—'000—</i>								
Under 40	14.2	12.3	10.6	5.3	5.7	1.6	*	2.2	49.7
40 and under 80	9.3	7.6	4.9	2.4	3.1		*	*	29.6
80 " 120	7.0	5.9	3.4	1.9	2.1		*	*	21.2
120 " 160	5.5	5.3	*	2.4	2.3	*	*	1.3	16.9
160 " 200	6.3	*	*			*	*		14.1
200 " 280	8.1	6.3	3.7	*	*	*	*	*	21.5
280 and over	14.4	11.5	3.6	2.0	2.5	*	*	*	35.2
Total	64.8	51.3	31.1	15.2	17.0	3.8	*	4.1	188.1
	<i>—dollars—</i>								
Median earnings	134	119	80	79	77	109	*	76	108
Mean earnings	185	177	132	140	142	170	*	115	164
Standard error of mean	5.40	5.80	4.70	6.00	5.70	11.50	*	9.60	2.50
FEMALE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES(a)									
<i>Weekly earnings (\$)—</i>	<i>—'000—</i>								
Under 40	24.1	27.0	20.5	10.4	11.1	2.2	*	2.1	97.8
40 and under 80	33.3	34.0	17.3	12.2	12.2	3.9	*	2.1	115.7
80 " 120	41.7	32.6	17.3	12.7	13.7	2.6	*	1.7	122.9
120 " 160	39.4	35.9	21.2	14.0	14.8	3.9	*	2.2	132.0
160 " 200	38.5	25.8	16.6	9.2	9.9	3.5	*	2.5	107.1
200 " 240	30.0	19.7	12.3	7.6	7.1	2.4	*	*	82.8
240 " 280	20.5	8.5	8.1	5.2	3.2	*	*	3.6	48.1
280 and over	29.0	20.8	7.9	6.5	6.1	*	*	2.0	74.2
Total	256.4	204.3	121.3	77.9	78.2	20.5	5.9	16.2	780.7
	<i>—dollars—</i>								
Median earnings	150	130	130	130	125	136	181	160	136
Mean earnings	164	148	139	144	138	139	17.5	162	151
Standard error of mean	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.70	2.60	3.90	12.10	6.70	1.10

(a) As part-time employees are defined as those who usually work less than 35 hours and who did so in the survey week, these figures may include some school teachers, academic staff in universities, air crew, etc.

TABLE 4. EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED IN A SECOND JOB : WEEKLY EARNINGS IN MAIN JOB AND WEEKLY EARNINGS IN SECOND JOB, AUGUST 1985

	<i>Males</i>					<i>Females</i>				
	<i>Weekly earnings in second job</i>			<i>Mean weekly earnings in second job</i>	<i>Standard error of mean</i>	<i>Weekly earnings in second job</i>			<i>Mean weekly earnings in second job</i>	<i>Standard error of mean</i>
	<i>Under \$30</i>	<i>\$30 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>			<i>Under \$30</i>	<i>\$30 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>		
<i>Weekly earnings in main job (\$)—</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Under 120	*	*	5.0	59	5.40	5.6	12.6	18.2	61	2.90
120 and under 200	*	4.0	6.1	79	6.50	*	8.8	11.3	73	4.50
200 " 280	*	4.1	5.5	72	6.30	*	9.5	11.8	81	4.80
280 " 360	*	9.7	10.9	92	5.70	*	5.4	5.9	99	8.40
360 and over	4.3	22.7	26.9	95	3.80	*	5.3	6.6	92	7.30
Total	11.2	43.2	54.4	87	2.40	12.3	41.5	53.8	76	2.10
	<i>—dollars—</i>									
Median earnings in main job	268	370	358	..	..	131	194	178	..	..
Mean earnings in main job	288	381	362	..	..	157	211	199	..	..
Standard error of mean	17.70	12.00	10.00	..	..	9.20	6.80	5.50	..	..

